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## FINANCIAL SERVICES REPUBLICAN MORNING CLIPS 8.13.2010

Wall Street Journal: "U.S. Plans More Aid for Jobless Homeowners... After months of hovering near 50-year lows, mortgage rates have fallen even further, into uncharted territory and to a level lenders say is finally igniting more homeowner refinancing.."

Wall Street Journal: "Treasury's New Idea for Laggard Banks: We'll Sit in at Your Meeting ... The U.S. wants to send Treasury employees to observe board meetings at banks that have consistently missed dividend or interest payments related to the government's financial-sector bailout."

Wall Street Journal: "Bair Guards FDIC Imprimatur ... Sheila Bair, the head of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., said her agency is reviewing the disclosures life insurers send to beneficiaries to determine if they mislead consumers about whether her agency backs their accounts."

Wall Street Journal: "Economists Want Policy Makers to Back Off Now ... Economists are getting more pessimistic about the strength of the U.S. recovery, but they don't think policy makers should do anything more to support it, according to the latest Wall Street Journal forecasting survey."

New York Times Op-Ed: "Paralysis at the Fed ... Ten years ago, one of America's leading economists delivered a stinging critique of the Bank of Japan, Japan's equivalent of the Federal Reserve, titled "Japanese Monetary Policy: A Case of Self-Induced Paralysis?" With only a few changes in wording, the critique applies to the Fed today."

Washington Post: "Obama's housing reform panel angers affordable-housing advocates ... Affordable-housing advocates raised concerns Thursday that the Obama administration is excluding consumer and community groups from playing prominent roles in a government-sponsored conference next week that will kick off efforts to overhaul national housing policy."

LA Times: "Big banks resisting changes to overdraft fee policies ... A federal judge this week ordered Wells Fargo & Co. to pay more than \$200 million to customers for having processed debit card transactions in such a way that virtually guaranteed higher overdraft fees."

Financial Times: "AgBank IPO officially the world's biggest... Agricultural Bank of China officially completed the world's largest ever initial public offering on Friday by fully exercising its over-allotment quota, bringing the total amount raised by the bank to about \$22.1bn."

Financial Times, Market Insight: " Web of shadow banking must be unravelled: ... A couple of years ago, it occurred to me that the 21st century financial system had come to resemble a huge ball of candy floss (or cotton candy, as Americans might say). For bankers had become so adept at slicing and dicing debt instruments, and then re-using these in numerous deals, they had in effect spun a great web of leverage and trading activity - in much the same way that sugar is spun in a bowl to create candy floss."

The Hill: "Warren meets with White House officials ... Elizabeth Warren, whom many Democrats want to see nominated as head of a new consumer financial agency, met with White House officials on Thursday."

The Hill: "Rep. Waters set to launch ethics defense with reporter roundtable discussion ... Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.)

will launch an aggressive defense against the ethics charges leveled against her in a sit-down discussion with reporters on Friday morning."